



FACT SHEET

CASMALIA DISPOSAL SITE

SITE BACKGROUND

THE CASMALIA DISPOSAL SITE

Between 1973 and 1989, the Casmalia Disposal Site ("Site") took in approximately 5.6 billion pounds of waste material. Formerly called the Casmalia Resources Hazardous Waste Management Facility (Facility), this Site is an inactive commercial hazardous waste disposal facility located in Santa Barbara County, California. It includes six landfills, numerous surface impoundments, disposal trenches, injection wells, waste spreading areas, and tank treatment systems. The Facility's owner(s)/operator(s) accepted a wide variety of industrial and commercial wastes including pesticides, solvents, acids, metals, cyanide, non-liquid polychlorinated biphenyls, and RCRA-regulated wastes (see inset, below). Facility records show that more than 10,000 parties disposed of waste material at the Casmalia Disposal Site.

Facing multiple enforcement actions, the Facility's owner(s)/operator(s) stopped taking waste material in 1989. In the early 1990s, the owner(s)/operator(s) abandoned efforts to properly close and clean up the Site. In 1992, the State of California asked the U.S. EPA to respond to deteriorating site conditions. The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") has documented the release and threatened release of many organic and inorganic compounds into the soil, groundwater, and air at the Site.

EPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The U.S. EPA initiated emergency actions in 1992 to stabilize conditions at the Site. These actions included installing and operating systems for collecting, treating and disposing of contaminated subsurface liquids, controlling the flow of storm water, and determining the best means to stabilize the landfills. These early U.S. EPA efforts were the start of a complex process of controlling one of the largest waste sites in the country.

SUPERFUND AND RCRA

Superfund is a federal program administered by the U.S. EPA. The Superfund program is designed to clean up hazardous substances that may pose a threat to human health or the environment. The full name of the Superfund law is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or "CERCLA." RCRA stands for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which is the federal law that provides for the management of solid and hazardous wastes. Under CERCLA and RCRA, the U.S. EPA has the authority to take actions at the Casmalia Disposal Site to protect human health and the environment. By virtue of these authorities, the U.S. EPA may also require potentially responsible parties to clean up the Site or pay the response costs.

FINDING A LONG-TERM SOLUTION

The U.S. EPA's mission is to find a long-term solution at the Casmalia Disposal Site that protects human health and the environment. In 1999, the U.S. EPA identified a presumptive remedy, based on the large body of existing Site characterization and groundwater monitoring data, for purposes of taking initial steps to control the movement of contaminated groundwater and contain contaminated land masses and estimating total Site costs to facilitate settlements with responsible parties to fund Site work.

PERFORMING WORK AT THE SITE

In an effort to achieve a long-term solution at the Casmalia Disposal Site, the U.S. EPA initially negotiated a settlement with a group of approximately 54 waste generators that sent approximately half of the waste to the Site. In 1997, a federal court entered the consent decree finalizing the settlement with the settling parties (U.S. v. ABB Vetco Gray, Inc. et al.) (“Consent Decree”). These settling parties, who constitute a broad spectrum of private and public entities, are referred to as the Casmalia Resources Site Steering Committee or the Casmalia Steering Committee (“CSC”). The Consent Decree identifies the process that will culminate in final remedies that will permanently close the Site.

Under the Consent Decree, the work is divided into four phases. Phase 1 is a continuation of the U.S. EPA’s emergency response action to stabilize the Site, and a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (“RI/FS”) to evaluate alternatives for the long-term cleanup of the Site, which is currently underway. Selection of final remedies for the Site will be based on the RI/FS. Also during Phase 1, all final remedies will be designed. The CSC is required to finance and perform Phase 1 work under U.S. EPA oversight.

Phase 2 encompasses construction of the selected remedies. When complete, these remedies will replace the systems in current operation at the Site. Phase 2 includes 5 years of operation and maintenance (“O&M”) of the permanent remedial actions. The CSC is obligated to perform Phase 2 under U.S. EPA oversight using monies recovered from other parties, as described more fully below under the heading “Funding Work at the Site”.

Phases 3 and 4 represent 30-year and post-30-year periods of O&M for all final systems. Monies from several sources will fund this work. These sources include: the Closure/Postclosure Trust Fund established by the Site’s owner(s)/operator(s) (currently over \$17 million); monies obtained from legal actions against the owner(s)/operator(s) of the Site (U.S. v. Kenneth Hunter, Jr., et al. and CSC v. Kenneth Hunter Jr., et al.); and recoveries from other parties. The CSC has the option to make up any funding shortfall for Phases 3 and 4 to retain contribution protection.

PROJECTED CLEANUP PLAN UTILIZES THE STANDARD REMEDY FOR LANDFILLS

Central to the projected cleanup plan for the Site is a well-established approach for closing landfills. Although the actual final remedy will be selected after the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, for purposes of estimating the cost of cleanup, the Agency established projected response actions at the former commercial hazardous waste disposal facility. To facilitate this projection for cost estimation purposes, EPA considered guidance on the concept of a “presumptive remedy” for hazardous waste landfills. EPA developed guidance for selecting presumptive remedies based on its experience that certain categories of sites have similar characteristics, such as types of contaminants present, types of disposal practices, or how environmental media are affected. Using information acquired from evaluating and cleaning up these sites, EPA developed presumptive remedies to streamline site investigations and remedy selections and accelerate future cleanups at these sites. The projected response actions include:

- Placing and maintaining permanent caps on 5 landfills and other highly contaminated areas, including approximately 80 acres;
- Extracting contaminated subsurface liquids, treating the liquids, and holding the treated liquids in an onsite pond for ultimate offsite discharge;
- Constructing an onsite treatment facility to manage the extracted contaminated liquids;
- Installing in-situ treatment walls (iron filing wall and granulated activated carbon wall in series) enhanced with slurry walls;
- Cleaning up 2 existing hazardous waste disposal ponds and 3 existing stormwater ponds;
- Constructing and maintaining 3 new ponds including treated liquids, brine evaporation, and stormwater ponds;
- Closing 7 former hazardous waste disposal trenches and 11 former hazardous waste injection wells;
- Cleaning up 16 acres of contaminated soils;
- Monitoring groundwater to continually check the efficacy of the Site systems; and
- Managing and monitoring stormwater to assure that offsite discharge is in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

FUNDING WORK AT THE SITE

In 1999, the U.S. EPA estimated total response costs at this Site to be \$284 million. For more information on the cost estimate, see the Fact Sheet entitled “1999 Cost Estimate Casmalia Disposal Site”, (see **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** below).

Sources of funding for these response actions include the trust fund established by the former owners and operators, as well as settlements with “potentially responsible parties” (explained below) and government funding.

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) include owners and operators, waste generators and transporters. During the 17 years in which the Facility operated, thousands of private businesses and public entities sent waste material to the Casmalia Disposal Site. The U.S. EPA is continuing its efforts to ensure that parties pay their share of estimated total Site costs. To this end, the government has settled with over than 1,150 parties since 1999. Over 1,000 of these parties sent a small, or *de minimis*, amount of waste to the Site. These parties have contributed over \$55.9 million to fund response costs at the Site.

In 1997, the United States sued the former owner(s)/operator(s) of the facility. In November 2002, the owner(s)/operator(s) entered into a settlement under which they agreed to pay \$6.9 million. In November 2002, the United States also settled with the State of California, which had sent a significant amount of waste to the Site. Under this settlement, the State paid \$15 million. In 2003, the United States settled with 45 additional major waste generators, who contributed over \$32 million. In July 2006, the United States settled with the Limited Partners of the former owner(s)/operator(s) for \$400,000.

Through each of these “cashout” settlements, the government seeks to reduce litigation costs normally associated with large multi-party hazardous waste sites. These settlements fund critical Site work.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The U.S. EPA's web site includes site photographs, maps, documents and other pertinent information. The URL for the web site is:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/casmalia>

Documents are also available at the following U.S. EPA information repositories:

<p>U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center 95 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 415-536-2000 (Documents related to the U.S. EPA's emergency actions, and other response actions to ensure proper Site closure and response actions, dating principally from 1992 to the present)</p> <p>Santa Maria Public Library 420 South Broadway Santa Maria, CA 93454 805-937-6483 (limited document collection)</p>	<p>U.S. EPA RCRA Records Center Managed by Tetra Tech EMI, Inc. 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 415-947-4597 (Historic documents related to the U.S. EPA permitting and enforcement activities, sating from the early 1970s through the 1980s)</p> <p>Robert E. Kennedy Library California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, CA 93407 805-756-1364 (Government Documents and Maps) (Limited Document Collection)</p>
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If you would like additional information about the Casmalia Disposal Site, call 1-415-369-0559 x10 to leave a message, or send an e-mail to r9.casmalia@epa.gov. A representative from the U.S. EPA will return your call as soon as possible.